

**MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE OFFICES & CRIMINAL JUSTICE
JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Room 220, Senate Building, Utah State Capitol Complex
January 9, 2009**

Members Present: Sen. Jon J. Greiner, Co-Chair
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings, Co-Chair
Pres. Michael G. Waddoups
Sen. Scott D. McCoy
Rep. Douglas C. Aagard
Rep. Richard A. Greenwood
Rep. Steven R. Mascaro
Rep. Curtis Oda
Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig
Rep. Larry B. Wiley

Staff Present: Steve Allred, Fiscal Analyst
Gary Ricks, Fiscal Analyst
Gary Syphus, Fiscal Analyst
Carrie Griffith, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Rep. Hutchings called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. He explained that the Subcommittee will need to have recommendations for a 15% budget cut and a Priority List in place by the end of the Thursday, February 12, 2009 meeting.

Rep. Hutchings further explained that when looking at the total budget cuts needed, the Subcommittee is about halfway through the process. He stated that so far, they have cut about 7% of the FY 2009 budget and agreed on a Hold Harmless and backfill on a number of items. He noted those backfill items were not applicable to FY 2010 budget.

Handouts detailing budget summaries were distributed for each of the agencies below.

Board of Pardons

Curtis Garner, Board Member, and Clark Harms, Vice Chair, addressed the Subcommittee. Mr. Garner affirmed the Board is a separate constitutional body from the Department of Corrections. He stated that in addition to public safety, they are also taking on the goal of trying to manage the prison's bed space. He noted that although the proposed budget cuts place uncomfortable pressure on the Board, but they will continue to fulfill their responsibilities. He mentioned that with regard to non-lapsing status, the Board has built up a \$50,000-\$60,000 cushion in the event they have to process hearings for early release and other issues. He also apprised the Subcommittee that the Drug Board has a statute that would need to be repealed if non-lapsing intent language is not awarded.

Mr. Garner and Mr. Harms responded to questions raised by Subcommittee members.

Department of Corrections

Tom Patterson, Executive Director, assisted by Robyn Williams, Deputy Director, distributed a handout and introduced several members of the Department. He thanked all the members of his staff who helped in gathering all the requested budget information for the Subcommittee.

Mr. Williams gave an overview of the duties and responsibilities of the Department, elaborating on the bed shortage problem within the prisons.

Referring to the Corrections Budget Presentation handout, Mr. Patterson directed the Subcommittee to the Vision and Mission Statements, stating they are not merely words, but they intend to hold themselves to both of these statements. He noted that the challenges in finding ways to be more innovative in trying to preserve their Mission and Vision, while not sacrificing staff or public safety, was both grueling and rewarding.

Mr. Patterson requested a FY 2009 supplemental of \$1,000,000 for Clinical Services Bureau Shortfall; FY 2009 Building Block Requests of \$1,500,000 for Clinical Services Bureau and \$296,400 for Correctional Officers--University medical Center (4). He informed the Subcommittee that medical and dental services are mandatory, not elective, and is only asking for what is necessary.

Reductions for the FY 2010 budget were discussed by Mr. Patterson, including Prison Upper Rank, DORA, Institutional Parole Office, Parole Violator Center, AP&P Contract; Jail Contracting and Jail Reimbursing.

The target is to reach a 15% cut, and the proposed cuts are currently at 12%. Recognizing this would be a difficult task, Subcommittee members asked the Department to be prepared with the additional 3% by the Wednesday, February 11, 2009 meeting and their recommendations on how they will handle those cuts.

Mr. Patterson responded to questions raised by Subcommittee members regarding inmate education, safety risks in early release for prisoners, inmate growth and other issues.

Courts

Dan Becker, State Court Administrator, assisted by Myron March, Deputy Director, distributed a handout and apprised the Subcommittee of the efforts they have made to the Department with the impact of H.B. 3. These impacts include: a hiring freeze for the remainder of FY 2009; travel, education, equipment and program reductions; cancellation of building repairs and improvements; Bountiful lease savings; and all non-essential spending halted. He stated they are approximately \$1,000,000 short of eliminating the need for a four day furlough of all non judge employees. He offered a solution through a civil filing fee increase as a credit against the courts FY 2009 reduction (Sen. Bell, S.B. 184).

Mr. Becker commented on the impact of the FY 2010 reductions and the implications that would result from deeper reductions. Other items detailed on the handout are workload increase, pending workload increase, actions taken or underway to improve efficiency and productivity. Non-lapsing authority was requested for FY 2009 and FY 2010 as well as other items listed on the handout.

Questions were raised by Subcommittee members and answered by Mr. Becker.

The Courts were complimented for coming to the meeting with a specific list of their needs and where they were willing to take cuts.

Guardian ad Litem

Rick Smith, Director, requested that the Subcommittee consider non-lapsing status for their Agency.

Discussion on Public Safety Fee Legislation

Sen. McCoy explained a handout describing public safety fee legislation and how concealed firearm permit fees would change with the legislation. A lively discussion ensued amongst Subcommittee members.

MOTION: Rep. Greenwood moved to adjourn.

Rep. Hutchings adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Sen. Jon J. Greiner, Co-Chair

Rep. Eric K. Hutchings, Co-Chair